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-STATEMENT -

**BYSIEWICZ DEEPLY CONCERNED ABOUT U.S.
ARMY SELECTION OF SITES FOR MIDDLETOWN
TRAINING AND RESERVE FACILITY**

SECRETARY OF THE STATE TROUBLED BY LISTING OF SITES IN MIDDLETOWN THAT
ARE CLEARLY NOT IN THE PUBLIC INTEREST AND DEFY THE WILL OF THE
COMMUNITY

MIDDLETOWN: Secretary of the State Susan Bysiewicz today released the following statement regarding the listing of three potential sites for a regional training and reserve facility for the U.S. Army to be located in Middletown.

“The people of Middletown welcome the development of the U.S. Army regional training and reserve facility to the community. However, citizens have made it abundantly clear that they want to see such a facility developed on the proposed site at Cucia Park, and that such a development would be minimally disruptive to Middletown’s quality of life, traffic patterns, and delicate ecosystem.

We have also made it clear that the other two sites the Army is investigating, the Bysiewicz property and the Boardman Lane site, are unsuitable locations for the proposed training facility. Development of an Army training and reserve base on either of these sites might wreak havoc for abutting property owners, our roads, our rivers, streams, wetlands and forests.

Federal, state and local government representatives of the Middletown community as well as citizens' groups have repeatedly made this point to the U.S. Army. Unfortunately, the Army is clearly not listening to public opinion on an issue that will have a deep impact on the community. This contributes to a lack of trust in the Army by the residents of Middletown. Furthermore, environmental feasibility studies on these two unsuitable sites would be an unnecessary waste of taxpayers' hard-earned money at a time of great financial stress and budget cutting across the country.

As a citizen who was born, raised and currently resides in Middletown, I can say that we have always pledged to work together with the Army to find a suitable location for its new base. It is my sincere hope that the federal government also proceeds with that same spirit of cooperation, taking into account the concerns of all stakeholders, not the least of which are the citizens and taxpayers of Middletown.

I would urge the Army and those responsible for determining the site of this new training facility to use the principles of smart growth when looking for the right location. The priority should be to develop former industrial or military sites that can be cleaned up, that are near public transportation and away from places where such a facility could disrupt residential neighborhoods and do environmental damage.”